(c) whether the Committee has been set up to draw up Mine closure plan;
(d) if so, the recommendations of the Committee; and
(e) action proposed by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, it is mandatory for the State Governments to obtain recommendations of the Gram Sabha or the Panchayats at the appropriate level before granting of prospecting licence or mining lease for minor minerals in the Scheduled Areas. Mineral Concession for minor minerals are granted by State Governments under their Minor Minerals Concession Rules. There is no proposal to amend Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 to empower village Panchayats to grant prospecting licences.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Government had set up a committee to look into various issues relating to mine closure. The recommendations of the Committee were considered in the conference of State Ministers of Mining and Geology held on 22.1.2003. Based on the decision taken in the conference, detailed provisions for mine closure plans including responsibilities of holder of mining lease and financial assurance have been made to provide for rehabilitation of mined out areas by amending the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 and Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 *vide* Gazette notifications GSR 329(E) and GSR 330(E) respectively both dated 10.4.2003, copies of which are scheduled to be laid on the Table of the House on 7.5.2003.

Formulation scheme for non-conventional energy sources for Bihar

†4892. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Bihar has formulated any schemes of non-conventional energy sources such as solar energy, wind energy, bio-gas energy and bio-mass energy and sent to the Central Government;
(b) if so, the details of the action being taken by Government thereto; and
(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing various non-conventional energy programmes/schemes based on non-conventional energy sources like solar, wind, biomass and small hydro throughout the country, including Bihar. Details of physical achievements made under the

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

major non-conventional energy programmes/schemes during the Ninth Plan period in Bihar are given in the Statement enclosed (*See* below). A total amount of Rs.7.82 crores was released for the implementation of various non-conventional energy programmes/schemes to Bihar during the Ninth Plan.

Statement

Details of physical achievements made under the major non-conventional energy programmes/schemes to Bihar during the 9th Plan period

Sl. No.	Programme/Scheme	Achievement made during the 9th Plan period
1.	Biogas Plants (nos.)	3211
2.	Improved Chulhas (nos.)	19,000
3.	Energy Parks (nos.)	10
4.	Integrated Rural Energy Programme Block (nos.)	56
5.	Solar Photovoltaic (nos.)	
	(i) Street Lighting Systems	106
	(ii) Home Lighting Systems	776
	(iii) Solar Lanterns	24,235
6.	Solar Photovoltaic Pumps (nos.)	38
7.	Water Pumping Windmills (nos.)	12
8.	Small Hydro Power (MW)	0.01

MW= Mega Watt

IOC Lab. at Lucknow

4893. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is correct that the IOC Lab. at Lucknow has developed a new bio-diesel based on extraction from Jatropha curcas plant;

(b) has the IOC also examined economic viability of the project and computed cost of its production *vis-a-vis* petro diesel; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?